

CLAIMS

1. A method for triggering and controlling the lateral buckling of underwater pipelines by the installation of supporting systems positioned in certain points of the seabed, characterized in that the upper surfaces of said supports, on which the pipelines rest, are tilted with respect to the horizontal plane, transversally with respect to the direction of said pipelines.
2. The method according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:
 - installation of the supporting systems in certain points of the seabed;
 - laying of the underwater pipelines by resting them on the upper surfaces of the support.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the underwater pipelines are rested on the upper surfaces of the support and also have funnels formed by structures present around the higher end of the carrying structure of said support.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein at least part of the structures present at the higher end of the carrying structure are removed after the pipelines have been rested on the upper surfaces.
5. The method according to at least one of the claims from 1 to 4, wherein the inclination angle of the up-

per surface with respect to the horizontal plane ranges from 3 to 30°.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the inclination angle ranges from 5 to 15°.

5 7. The method according to at least one of the claims from 1 to 6, wherein the upper surface of the support has a constant inclination.

8. The method according to at least one of the claims from 1 to 6, wherein the upper surface of the support
10 has a varying inclination in one or more points.

9. The method according to at least one of the claims from 1 to 6, wherein the upper surface of the support consists of a succession of sections with a varying inclination alternating with horizontal stretches.

15 10. The method according to at least one of the claims from 1 to 9, wherein the final section of the upper surface of the support is counter-inclined.

11. A support for the resting of underwater pipelines for the triggering and control of lateral buckling of said
20 underwater pipelines essentially consisting of a structure, positioned on the seabed, with a simple or lattice framework with suitable foundations, characterized in that the upper surface(s) (2), where the pipeline is rested, are tilted transversally with re-
25 spect to the direction of said pipeline.

12. The support according to claim 11, wherein said upper surfaces are coated with material having a defined friction coefficient.
13. The support according to claim 11, wherein the friction between said upper surfaces and the pipeline is defined by means of supporting rollers.
14. The support according to one of the claims from 11 to 13, comprising one or more funnels (3) formed by structures present around the higher end of the carrying structure of the support.
15. The support according to one of the claims from 11 to 14, wherein the inclination of the upper surface can be varied by means of suitable devices.
16. The support according to one of the claims from 11 to 15, wherein the foundations are of the mud-muts or suction piles type.